

Glen Echo Amusement Park, Crystal  
Swimming Pool (Crystal Pool)  
Glen Echo Park at MacArthur Boulevard  
Glen Echo  
Montgomery County  
Maryland

HAER No. MD-43

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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Glen Echo Amusement Park, Crystal Swimming Pool  
(Crystal Pool)

HAER No. MD-43

Location: Glen Echo Park at MacArthur Boulevard  
Glen Echo, Montgomery County, Maryland

Date of Construction: 1931 (Amusement Park Owners Record Book)

Architect/Engineer: Alexander, Becker, and Schoeppe of Philadelphia

Significance: From 1931 to 1968, the Crystal Pool served as a large public swimming pool. From 1968 to 1982, the pool remained closed and fell into a derelict state. Several rooms around the base of the pool were used as artist studios until 1981 when the pool was declared in a dangerous structural state. In 1982, the pool was declared eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Glen Echo Historic District.

Measuring 150' x 250' overall, the structure contained three swimming areas, a sand "beach" and lockers in a wooden locker room extension. There is a large bathing pool with swimming area and separate diving well and wooden sun decks above the wooden locker room. Round glass portholes are in the pool side, allowing swimmers to be seen from surrounding utility rooms.

The pool was slated for demolition in 1982. The Art Deco pylon facade is to be retained after demolition. Also to be retained is the First Aid Building, the restroom building, and a portion of the ramp wall. The remainder of the pool is to be filled in and landscaped for a multi-use recreation area.

Source of Information: Richard Cook, Glen Echo Historian

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985, from information compiled by Gary Scott, Acting Regional Historian, National Capital Region, National Park Service